

In the claims:

The claims standing for examination are reproduced below with appropriate status indication.

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A call-waiting system, comprising:

a service control point (SCP) in a public switched telephony network (PSTN);

an Internet-connected service provider (ISP); and

cooperating software executing at the ISP, SCP and on a user's Internet appliance for providing a call-waiting service;

wherein, when a user operating the Internet appliance connects to the ISP for Internet connection services a call forwarding service is automatically initiated causing the ISP to instruct the SCP to forward calls for the user to a specific number associated with the ISP, the specific number being to a switch that converts incoming calls to TCP/IP format and connects them to the user's Internet appliance, and in response to an indication at the ISP of a call for the user, said ISP generates an alert to the user's Internet appliance of the call and the and cooperating software on the user's Internet appliance presents each incoming call as an icon wherein the user transfers calls by manipulating the individual icons.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A call-waiting system, comprising:

a service control point (SCP) in a public switched telephony network (PSTN);

an Internet-connected service system; and

cooperating software executing at the service system, SCP and on a user's Internet appliance for providing a call-waiting service;

wherein, when a user operating the Internet appliance connects to the service system for Internet connection services a call forwarding service is automatically initiated causing the Internet-connected service system to instruct the SCP to forward calls for the user to a specific number associated with the Internet-connected service system, the specific number being to a switch that converts incoming calls to TCP/IP format and connects them to the user's Internet appliance, ~~and in response to indications at the service system of calls for the user, said service system generates alerts to the user's Internet appliance of the calls and the~~ and cooperating software, on the user's Internet appliance presents each call as an icon wherein the user interfaces with the calls by manipulating the individual icons.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A call-waiting system, comprising:

a service control point (SCP) in a public switched telephony network (PSTN);
an Internet-connected service system; and
cooperating software executing at the service system, SCP and on a user's Internet appliance for providing a call-waiting service;

wherein, when a user operating the Internet appliance connects to the service system for Internet connection services a call forwarding service is automatically initiated causing the Internet-connected service system to instruct the SCP to forward calls for the user to a specific number associated with the Internet-connected service system, the specific number being to a switch that converts incoming calls to TCP/IP format and connects them to the user's Internet appliance, ~~and in response to indications at the service system of calls for the user, said service system generates an alert to the user's Internet appliance of the calls and the~~ and cooperating software on the user's Internet appliance presents each call as an icon wherein the user initiates outgoing calls by manipulating the icons.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A call-waiting system, comprising:

a service control point (SCP) in a public switched telephony network (PSTN);

an Internet-connected service system; and

cooperating software executing at the service system, SCP and on a user's

Internet appliance for providing a call-waiting service;

wherein, when a user operating the Internet appliance connects to the service system for Internet connection services a call forwarding service is automatically initiated causing the Internet-connected service system to instruct the SCP to forward calls for the user to a specific number associated with the Internet-connected service system, the specific number being to a switch that converts incoming calls to TCP/IP format and connects them to the user's Internet appliance, and in response to indications at the service system of a call for the user, said service system generates an alert to the user's Internet appliance of the call, and the and cooperating software on the user's Internet appliance presents each call as an icon wherein the user causes a prerecorded message to be played to the caller by manipulating the icons.

25. (Previously presented) The call waiting system of claim 24 wherein the user's appliance presents an alert as an icon on a display of the appliance, and the icon is manipulated by the appliance to indicate to the user characteristic status of the incoming call.